

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE DIVISION
CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:17-CV-00022-GCM**

CURTIS NEAL,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	<u>ORDER</u>
)	
SYNCHRONY BANK)	
WAL-MART STORES, INC.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

THIS MATTER COMES before this Court on the Court’s own Motion to hold a status conference in this case. The Court held the status conference on October 24, 2018. For the reasons stated in open court, it is **HEREBY ORDERED**:

Cases 3:17-cv-00022, 3:18-cv-00221, 3:18-cv-00501 are consolidated for purposes of discovery. All filings in this case should be made under case 3:17-cv-00022. Pursuant to the consolidation, the Parties are **ORDERED** to submit a discovery plan to the Court within thirty (30) days of entry of this Order. All answer deadlines in this case are **STAYED** pending the submission of that discovery plan.

Counsel for the Plaintiffs is **ORDERED** to confer with Plaintiffs’ counsel from the other two related cases to create a leadership structure for the consolidated cases. If counsel is unable to negotiate a leadership structure within thirty (30) days, the Court will schedule another hearing to decide that issue. Finally, discovery in this case will not be formally bifurcated. However, as stated in open court, the Court expects the Parties to focus their discovery on the issue of class certification to the extent that is possible.

SO ORDERED.

Signed: October 24, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Graham C. Mullen", written over a horizontal line.

Graham C. Mullen
United States District Judge

